

the Government any information and assistance the Commission determines necessary to carry out its functions under this section. Each such department, agency, and independent instrumentality is authorized to provide such information and assistance to the extent permitted by law when requested by the Chair of the Commission.

(f) **REPORT.**—No later than 18 months following the date on which its sixth member is appointed in accordance with subsection (b)(2), the Commission shall submit its report to the President and the Congress. The Commission shall terminate 90 days after the date of the submission of its report.

(g) **CONGRESSIONAL CONSIDERATION.**—No later than 60 days after the submission of the report, the Committees on the Judiciary of the House of Representatives and the Senate shall act on the report.

(h) **AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**—There are authorized to be appropriated to the Commission such sums, not to exceed \$900,000, as may be necessary to carry out the purposes of this section. Such sums as are appropriated shall remain available until expended.

Mr. D'AMATO addressed the Chair.

Mrs. FEINSTEIN addressed the Chair.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from California is recognized.

Mrs. FEINSTEIN. Mr. President, I believe the Senator from New York has a question. I yield to him for a moment.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from New York is recognized.

STAMP OUT BREAST CANCER ACT

Mr. D'AMATO. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the pending amendment be laid aside for up to 3 minutes; and I further ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of H.R. 1585, which was just received from the House.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Mrs. FEINSTEIN. Mr. President, reserving the right to object, as long as the Chair will recognize the Senator from California following the handling of this measure.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator's request is so modified.

Is there an objection?

Without objection, it is so ordered.

The clerk will report.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (H.R. 1585) to allow postal patrons to contribute to funding for breast cancer research through the voluntary purchase of certain specially issued United States postage stamps, and for other purposes.

The Senate proceeded to consider the bill.

Mrs. FEINSTEIN. Mr. President, I am proud to support the breast cancer research stamp bill, H.R. 1585, sponsored by Congresswoman SUSAN MOLINARI and approved in the House of Representatives yesterday on a vote of 422 to 3.

I, along with Senators D'AMATO, FAIRCLOTH, and the original 51 cosponsors of my bill, the breast cancer research stamp Act (S. 726), have worked very hard to give life to this innovative

breast cancer research stamp idea, which originated with a physician—Dr. Bodai from my State, and I am happy to see it become a reality today.

At a time when the National Cancer Institute can only fund 26 percent of applications, a drop from 60 percent in the 1970's, this legislation creates an innovative way for citizens to contribute to breast cancer research.

Under this bill:

Postal Service would establish a special rate of postage for first-class mail, not to exceed 25 percent of the first-class rate, as an alternative to the regular first-class postage. The additional sum would be contributed to breast cancer research.

The rate would be determined in part, by the Postal Service to cover administrative costs and the remainder by the Governors of the Postal Service.

Seventy percent of the funds raised would fund breast cancer research at NIH and 30 percent of the funds raised would go to breast cancer research at DOD.

The Postal Service would provide the stamp within a year from the date of enactment.

Within 3 months prior to the stamp's 2-year anniversary, the bill requires the Comptroller General to evaluate the effectiveness and the appropriateness of this method of fund raising and report its findings to Congress.

THE BREAST CANCER TOLL

There are 1.8 million women in America today with breast cancer. Another 1 million women do not know they have it; 180,200 new invasive cases will be diagnosed this year.

Breast cancer kills 46,000 women a year. It is the leading cause of death for women ages 35 to 52 and the second leading cause of cancer death in all women, claiming a woman's life every 12 minutes in this country.

For California, 20,230 women were diagnosed with breast cancer and 5,000 women will die from the disease. (Source: American Cancer Society—cancer facts and figures 1996.)

The San Francisco Bay area has one of the highest rates of breast cancer incidence and mortality in the world. According to the Northern California Cancer Center, bay area white women have the highest reported breast cancer rate in the world, 104 per 100,000 population. Bay area African-American women have the fourth highest reported rate in the world at 82 per 100,000.

In addition to the cost of women's lives, the annual cost of treatment of breast cancer in the United States is approximately \$10 billion.

The incidence of breast cancer is increasing. In the 1950's, 1 in 20 women developed breast cancer. Today, it is one in eight and growing.

While we know there is a genetic link to some breast cancers, we do not understand the fundamental cause. In hearings I held as cochair of the Senate Cancer Coalition, we learned that environmental factors may lead to as much

as 90 percent of breast cancer. We know that breast cancer rates vary between countries and when people migrate, they tend to acquire cancer rates closer to those of newly adopted countries within a generation.

Over the last 25 years, the National Institutes of Health has spent over \$31.5 billion on cancer research—\$2 billion of that on breast cancer. In the last 6 years alone, appropriations for breast cancer research have risen from \$90 million in 1990 to \$600 million today.

And the United States is privileged to have some of the most talented scientists and many of the leading cancer research centers in the world such as UCLA, UC San Francisco, Memorial Sloan-Kettering, the Dana Farber Institute, and M.D. Anderson. But researchers need funding. Science needs nourishment. Without it, promising avenues of scientific discovery go unexplored. Questions go unanswered. Cures go undiscovered.

CITIZEN CONTRIBUTIONS

The breast cancer research stamp bill allows anyone who chooses to, to conveniently contribute to Federal research and to finding a cure for the breast cancer epidemic. It is an innovative idea originating with an American citizen and I am very grateful for the support of the House yesterday.

I urge my colleagues to support this important legislation.

Mr. THOMPSON. Mr. President, as chairman of the Governmental Affairs Committee, which has oversight responsibility for the U.S. Postal Service, I want to comment on H.R. 1585. This measure directs the Postal Service to issue a semipostal stamp, at a price of up to 8 additional cents per first-class stamp, to raise funds for breast cancer research. Clearly this measure has the votes to pass; a similar measure passed the Senate last week by a vote of 83 to 17. But I want the record to reflect my strong disagreement with it. I think it is a bad idea for several reasons. It will create a precedent for congressional authorization for the issuance of many other fundraising postal stamps for many other worthy causes. As all Members are aware, the Postal Service has plenty of challenges on which it should concentrate. Not all costs of undertaking this new program are quantifiable, and we will be distracting the Postal Service from its responsibility of providing the best delivery service at the lowest price. Note that it is likely that we will soon see an increase in the cost of mailing a first-class letter. If Congress believes additional funds should be spent for this or another purposes, Congress should appropriate the funds directly. That is our responsibility.

Mr. HOLLINGS. Mr. President, I want to convey my strong support for the Stamp Out Breast Cancer Act, H.R. 1585. I may have created confusion on this point by voting last week against an amendment offered by my friend Senator FEINSTEIN of California when

the Senate was considering the Treasury-Postal Service-general Government appropriations bill. I was concerned about initial reports that the Postal Service would have technical problems raising the projected funds. However, passage of today's legislation both solves those problems and properly authorizes the program. As a supporter of the war on cancer 26 years ago and the author of the pilot program which grew into the Centers for Disease Control's breast and cervical cancer screening program, I am very pleased to see this legislation enacted. The bottom line is that we need public awareness and research funds, and this legislation provides both. Again, I commend my friend Senator FEINSTEIN for her energetic efforts on this front and am pleased to support this bill.

Mr. D'AMATO. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent the bill be considered read a third time, passed, the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table, and that any statements relating to the bill be placed in the RECORD at the appropriate place in the RECORD.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The bill (H.R. 1585) was passed.

Mr. D'AMATO. Mr. President, I want to thank the Senator from California for yielding. I think it is just gratitude at this time because there is no one who has worked harder than Senator FEINSTEIN in terms of the attempts to bring forward this passage.

This will permit the Postal Service to go forward with a program that will pay for it itself and dedicate 70 percent of the net proceeds to cancer research at NIH and give the other 30 percent to the Department of Defense.

We worked together on this with the House, and I think it is a great testimony to the dedication of bringing people together for a sole purpose.

I yield the floor.

Mrs. FEINSTEIN addressed the Chair.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from California is recognized.

Mrs. FEINSTEIN. Mr. President, I also want to thank the Senator from New York for his help on this matter.

We have had a true bipartisan effort with Ms. MOLINARI and Mr. FAZIO in the House and Senators D'AMATO, FAIRCLOTH and FEINSTEIN in the Senate. This bill passed the House on suspension. I believe it is an excellent bill. I think it will get the job done in a way in which we can all be proud.

The bill is slightly different than the bill that we introduced as an amendment on the fiscal year 1998 Treasury-Postal appropriations bill last week. This bill provides for up to 25 percent of the cost of a first-class stamp to be attached, the extra amount added to be used for breast cancer research. Of the amount of funds raised, 75 percent would go to the NIH, and the remainder to DOD.

It is something that is widely supported by virtually every medical and cancer association in the United States.

Let me say one thing. Breast cancer is the No. 1 killer for women between the ages of 35 and 52 in this Nation today. It used to be 1 out of 20 women. Today it is one out of every eight women in the United States will come down with breast cancer. It is extraordinarily serious. This is a unique public/private partnership, the first time it has been tried, a pilot, if you will. I know it has been hotlined. I am grateful for the results. I thank the Senator from New York so very much for his work and support and the pink ribbon he is wearing on his lapel, and I believe the women of America, all of us, also thank every Member of this body.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The bill has been passed.

Mr. BUMPERS. Will the Senator yield for a question?

Mrs. FEINSTEIN. I certainly will.

Mr. BUMPERS. We debated this in the Appropriations Committee, as we know, for a short time. We voted on it the other day—a different proposition. I am not clear on the difference between the amendment the Senator is offering now and the one that was overwhelmingly passed in the Senate the other day. That was carried—a 1-cent increase in the 32-cent stamp, with the extra penny going to breast cancer research. This one, as I understand it—does this amendment take part of the 32 cents or does it also carry an increase in the 32 cents?

Mrs. FEINSTEIN. The amendment we are to be on is a Commerce, State, Justice amendment that I have sent to the desk involving the ninth circuit split. But before we start that, it is my understanding the bill has passed on the breast cancer stamp, and I would be very happy to discuss it.

Mr. BUMPERS. I did not realize the parliamentary situation. Could the Senator just take a minute to explain?

Mrs. FEINSTEIN. I will be very happy to.

One of the problems with the 1-cent stamp is the uncertainty of the post office that the administrative costs will be fully covered by the additional 1 cent. The legislation which passed the House, authored by SUSAN MOLINARI and DICK FAZIO, on suspension, essentially provides that it can be up to 25 percent—that would be about 8 cents, determined by the Board of Governors—so that the full cost of administering it is covered. The Board of Governors within a short period of time will set the actual amount, whether it is 1 cent, 2 cents, 3 cents or 4 cents, and I actually feel is a much better way of doing it. I think it will end up producing more money. I think it will give the post office fewer ulcers. I think it will be carried out forthwith. This has passed the House, and with the passage here today we can get the show underway.

The Board of Governors must, within 1 year of the enactment of the bill, issue the stamp.

Mr. BUMPERS. The Senator mentioned 25 percent. Is that 25 percent of

32 cents or is that 25 percent of something else?

Mrs. FEINSTEIN. It is 25 percent of a first-class stamp which right now is 32 cents.

Mr. BUMPERS. So 25 percent of that goes to the Postal Service to administer this program?

Mrs. FEINSTEIN. No. No. It allows an optional first-class stamp, up to 25 percent of the cost of a first-class stamp. In other words, it could add 8 cents onto it, on an optional basis. There would still be a 32-cent stamp. Then there would be this breast cancer stamp. All right. The Board of Governors in their deliberation would make a decision of administrative cost and then out of the 8 cents or 4 cents or 6 cents or 2 cents, whatever they decide, those administrative costs would come out of that additional amount.

Mr. BUMPERS. I follow you. And the rest of it then would go to the Department of Defense and the National Institutes of Health?

Mrs. FEINSTEIN. That is correct.

Mr. BUMPERS. I thank the Senator.

Mrs. BOXER. Will the Senator yield for a moment?

Mrs. FEINSTEIN. I would be happy to.

Mrs. BOXER. I thank the Senator for her leadership on the breast cancer stamp. I was proud to be one of the cosponsors of the stamp. I know how hard she worked. I know it took many, many hours of work. I was sitting in the Appropriations Committee when the committee chose to await action on the floor. I know that a couple of the senior members of the committee were not that enthusiastic. But I do feel that what the Senator says is right. This bill, this freestanding bill that we have now passed, takes the best of both worlds. I am very excited about it. I congratulate my friend. I can't wait to go to the post office and buy that stamp. If all the American people just think about buying a few of those stamps during the year, we will be able to put so much more into research. It is just a great concept. I thank my colleague for her leadership.

Mrs. FEINSTEIN. I thank the Senator from California for her comments. I thank the Senator for her help, and I think all of us can be very proud if we just await Presidential signature. It is a fine thing.

DEPARTMENTS OF COMMERCE, JUSTICE, AND STATE, THE JUDICIARY, AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 1998

The Senate continued with the consideration of the bill.

AMENDMENT NO. 986

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senate will now proceed to consider the amendment of the Senator from California, which is to be considered under a pending time agreement.

Mrs. FEINSTEIN. I thank the Chair.

Now, if we may turn to something which is of very deep concern. The